

THE 16
CATECHISM

OF THE

Church of *England*:

With the Proofs thereof out of the
Scriptures, in words at length.

For the benefit of Youth in general,
and those of the Parish of *Wotton-Fits-*
pain in particular, which are a
part of the Charge

OF

BENJAMIN BIRD,
Minister of the Gospel there.

Prov. 22. 6. *Train up a Child in the way he should*
go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.
Math. 18. 14. *It is not the will of your Father that is*
in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

L O N D O N,

Printed by *Andrew Clark*, for the Company of
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To
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To the Governors of Families in *Wotton-Fitspain*, as well those that separate from, as those that attend upon the Publick Worship of God in the Parochial Church-Assembly. Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

I Am a debtor both to you and yours, and will very gladly spend and be spent for you (though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved through the over diligence of supplanters, who would exclude us that you might affect them.) And therefore am ready to lay out my self in any way that shall appear most likely to further you and yours in the way to salvation. To this end I have often set about the work of Catechising, but have been discouraged through some prejudice that some of you have taken up against the Church Catechism. I am now commanded by Authority to set afresh upon the work, and do earnestly desire you unanimously to further and encourage me in it. One of you told me lately;

he would not send his Children unless I would use the Assemblies Catechism : This is now in a Scripture dress as well as that, and takes place of it in respect of Antiquity and Authority. It contains the chief heads of the Christian Religion, as well as any other ; and by exercising your Children in it, I hope to furnish them with a form of sound words, which they may do well to hold fast. To acquaint you with the necessity and usefulness of Catechising is but to light a Candle to the Sun, that being already excellently well done by Ministers both of the Episcopal and Presbyterian Perswasions. It hath been the practice of Heathens, Jews, Christians, to Catechise and Instruct their Children ; yea, even the Sea-monsters draw out the breast, they give suck to their young ones : and therefore let not us, who would be accounted the Lords people, become cruel like the Ostriches in the Wilderness.

Your Remembrancer from and unto God.

May 4. 1673.

BENJAMIN BIRD.

THE
CATECHISM
OF THE
Church of *England*,

With the Proofs thereof out of the
SCRIPTURES.

Question.

What is your name?

Answer.

R. or A.

Question.

Who gave you this name?

Answer.

My Godfathers and my Godmothers in my Baptism^a, wherein I was made a Member of Christ^b, the Child of God^c, and an Inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven^d,

^a Luke 1. 59. And when they came to circumcize the Child they called him

Zacharias.

A 3

^b 1 Cor.

^b *1 Cor.* 12. 13. For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body.

^c *John* 1 12. To as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God.

^d *Rom.* 8. 17. And if children then heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.

Question.

What did your Godfathers and Godmothers then for you?

Answer.

They did promise and vow three things in my name: First, that I should renounce the Devil and all his works^e, the pomps and vanities of this wicked world^f, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh^g: Secondly, that I should believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith^h: And thirdly, that I should keep Gods holy Will and Commandments, and walk in the same all the dayes of my lifeⁱ.

^e *1 Pet.* 3. 21. The like figure whereunto Baptism doth now save us; not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but

but the answer or stipulation of a good conscience towards God.

^f *Gal. 6. 14.* God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

^g *Gal. 5. 24.* They that are Christs, have crucified the flesh, with the affections and lusts.

^h *Acts 8. 36, 37.* And the Eunuch said, See here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized? And *Philip* said, if thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest.

ⁱ *Luke 1. 74, 75.* That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in righteousness and holiness before him all the days of our life.

Question.

Dost thou not think that thou art bound to believe and to do as they have promised for thee?

Answer.

Yes verily; and by Gods help so I will: And I heartily thank our heavenly

venly Father, that he hath called me to this state of salvation through Jesus Christ our Saviour¹. And I pray unto God to give me his grace, that I may continue in the same unto my lives end^m.

^k *John* 15. 5. For without me ye can do nothing.

¹ *Ephes.* 1. 3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

^m *2 Tim.* 1. 12. I know whom I have believed, and am perswaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Catechist.

Rehearse the Articles of thy belief.

Answer.

I Believe in God the Father Almighty^a; maker of heaven and earth^o.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord^p, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost^q, born of the Virgin Mary^r, suffered under Pontius Pilate^s; Was crucified^t, dead^u, and buried^v :
He

he descended into hell^a: The third day he arose again from the dead^r: he ascended into heaven^z, and sitteth at the right hand of God^s, the Father Almighty^b: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead^c.

I believe in the Holy Ghost^d: The holy Catholick Church^e: The Communion of Saints^f: The forgiveness of sins^g: The resurrection of the body^h, and the life everlastingⁱ. Amen.

^a *Ephes.* 4. 6. There is one God and Father of all, who is above all.

^r *Genes.* 1. 1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

^b *Acts* 16. 31. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. *John* 3. 18. He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

^d *Math.* 1. 20. That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

^f *Math.* 1. 25. And he knew her not till she had brought forth her first born Son.

^r *John* 19. 1. *Pilate* therefore took *Jesus* and scourged him.

^r *Math.* 27. 35. And they crucified him.

^r *Math.* 27. 50. *Jesus* when he had cried with a loud voice yielded up the ghost.

^r *Math.* 27. 59, 60. And when *Joseph* had taken the Body, he wrapped it in a clean linnen cloth, and laid it in his own Tomb. *1 Cor.* 15. 4. And that he was buried.

^r *Psal.* 16. 10. For thou wilt not leave my soul in Hell, neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption. *Acts.* 2. 31. *David* spake of the resurrection of *Christ*, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

^r *1 Cor.* 15. 4. And he rose again the third day.

^r *2 Ephes.* 4. 10. He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens.

^r *Col.* 3. 1. Seek those things which are above, where *Christ* sitteth at the right hand of God.

^r *Isaiah*

^b *Isai. 63. 16.* Doubtless thou art our Father. *Rev. 4. 8.* Lord God Almighty.

^c *2 Tim. 4. 1.* I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing.

^d *Acts 5. 3, 4.* Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost : thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

^e *1 Cor. 3. 17.* The Temple of God is holy, which Temple ye are. *Cant. 6. 9.* My love, my undefiled is but one, she is the onely one of her Mother.

^f *Rom. 12. 5.* We being many are one Body in Christ, and every one Members one of another.

^g *Col. 1. 14.* In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

^h *Acts 26. 8.* Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead ;

ⁱ *Gal. 6. 8.* He that soweth to the spirit, shall of the spirit reap life everlasting.

Question.¹

What dost thou chiefly learn in these Articles of thy belief?

Answer.

First, I learn to believe in God the Father, who hath made me and all the world ^k : Secondly, in God the Son, who hath redeemed me and all mankind ¹ : Thirdly, in God the Holy Ghost, who sanctifieth me and all the elect people of God ^m.

^k *Prov.* 22. 2. The rich and poor meet together, the Lord is the maker of them all.

¹ *1 John* 2. 2. He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours onely, but also for the sins of the whole world.

^m *Rom.* 15. 16. That the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. *2 Thes.* 2. 13. God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the spirit.

Question.

You said that your Godfathers and your Godmothers did promise for you, that

that you should keep Gods Com-
mandments : Tell me how many
there be :

Answer.

Ten.

Question.

Which be they :

Answer.

The same which God spake in the
twentieth Chapter of Exodus,
saying : I am the Lord thy God, who
brought thee out of the Land of Egypt,
out of the house of Bondage.

i. Thou shalt have none other Gods
but me.

ii. Thou shalt not make to thy self
any graven Image, nor the likeness
of any thing that is in heaven above,
or in the earth beneath, or in the wa-
ter under the earth. Thou shalt not
bow down to them, nor worship them :
For I the Lord thy God am a jealous
God, and visit the sins of the Fathers
upon the Children, unto the third and
fourth Generation of them that hate
me, and shew mercy unto thousands
in

in them that love me and keep my Commandments.

iii. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

iv. Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath Day, six dayes shalt thou labour and do all that thou hast to do; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: In it thou shalt do no manner of work, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, thy man-servant, and thy maid-servant, thy cat-tel, and the stranger that is within thy gates: For in six dayes the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath-day, and hallowed it.

v. Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy dayes may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

vi. Thou shalt do no murder.

vii. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

viii. Thou shalt not steal.

ix. Thou

ix. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

x. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbors wife, nor his servant, nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is his.

Question.

What dost thou chiefly learn by these Commandments?

Answer.

I learn two things: My duty towards God, and my duty towards my Neighbourⁿ.

ⁿ *Acts* 24. 16. And herein do I exercise my self, to have alwaies a conscience void of offence toward God and toward men.

Question.

What is thy duty towards God?

Answer.

My duty towards God is to believe in him^o, to fear himⁿ, and to love him with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength^a: To worship himⁿ,
To

To give him thanks^r; To put my whole trust in him^r; To call upon him^u; To honoz his holy Name^w and his Word^x, and to serbe him truly^y, all the dayes of my life^z.

^o 2 *Chron.* 20. 20. Believe in the Lord your God, so shall you be established.

^r *Revel.* 14. 7. Fear God.

^u *Math.* 23. 37. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

^x *Math.* 4. 10. Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serbe.

^y 2 *Thef.* 1. 3. We are bound to thank God alwayes.

^z *Psal.* 62. 8. Trust in him at all times ye people.

^a *Psal.* 116. 2. Because he hath enclined his ear unto me; therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

^w *Psal.* 8. 1. O Lord our God, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

^x *Psal.* 138. 2. Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy Name.

^y *Dent.*

¹ *Dent. 10. 19.* Serve him with all your heart, and with all your soul.

² *Psal. 25. 5.* On thee do I wait all the day.

Question.

What is thy duty towards thy Neighbour?

Answer.

My duty towards my Neighbour, is to love him as my self^a, and to do to all men as I would they should do to me^b: To love, honour, and succour my Father and Mother^c: To honour and obey the King^d, and all that are put in authority under him^e: To submit my self to all my Governors, Teachers, Spiritual Pastors^f, and Masters^g: To order my self lowly and reverently to all my betters^h: To hurt no body by word or deedⁱ: To be true and just in all my dealing^k: To bear no malice nor hatred in my heart^l: To keep my hands from picking and stealing^m, and my tongue from evil speakingⁿ, lying^o, and flandering^p: To keep my body in temperance,

perance^a, soberness^b, and chastity^c:
 Not to covet nor desire other mens
 goods^d, but to learn and labour truly
 to get my own living^e, and to do my
 duty in that state of life, unto which
 it shall please God to call me^f.

^a *Matth. 19. 19.* Thou shalt love thy
 neighbour as thy self.

^b *Matth. 7. 12.* Whatsoever ye would
 that men should do to you, do ye even
 so to them.

^c *2 Tim. 3. 3.* Without natural affe-
 ction. *Matth. 19. 19.* Honor thy Father
 and thy Mother. *Gen. 45. 9, 10, 11.* Haste
 you, go up to my Father, and say unto
 him, thus saith thy Son *Joseph*, Come
 down to me, tarry not, and thou shalt
 dwell in the land of *Goshen*, and there
 will I nourish thee.

^d *1 Pet. 2. 17.* Honour the King.

^e *1 Pet. 2. 13. 14.* Submit your selves
 to every ordinance of man for the Lords
 sake, whether it be to the King as su-
 preme, or unto Governors, as unto them
 that are sent by him.

^f *Heb. 13. 17.* Obey them that have
 the

the rule over you, and submit yourselves, for they watch for your souls as they that must give account.

^s *Ephes. 6. 5.* Servants be obedient to them that are your Masters according to the flesh.

^h *Phil. 2. 3.* In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

ⁱ *Numb. 16. 15.* I have not taken one As from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

^{*} *Levit. 19. 36.* Just balances, just weights, a just Ephah, and a just Hin shall ye have.

ⁱ *1 Pet. 2. 1.* Wherefore lay aside all malice. *Levit. 19. 17.* Thou shalt not hate thy Brother in thy heart.

^m *Ephes. 4. 28.* Let him that stole steal no more.

ⁿ *Col. 3. 8.* Put filthy communication out of your mouth.

^{*} *Col. 3. 9.* Lye not one to another.

^p *Psal. 101. 5.* Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off.

ⁱ *2 Pet. 1. 6.* Add to knowledg temperance

^r *Titus* 2. 6. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

^r *Titus* 2. 5. Be discreet, chaste.

^r *Acts* 20. 33. I have coveted no mans Silver, or Gold, or Apparell.

^u *2 Thes.* 3. 12. We command, that with quietness they work and eat their own bread.

^w *1 Cor.* 7. 20. Let every man abide in the same Calling wherein he was called.

Catechist.

My good Child, know this, that thou art not able to do these things of thy self, nor to walk in the Commandments of God, and to serve him without his special grace, which thou must learn at all times to call for by diligent prayer. Let me hear therefore if thou canst say the Lords prayer.

Answer.

O Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name, Thy
Kingdom come, Thy will be done in
earth as it is in heaven. Give us this
day our daily bread: And forgive us
our

our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us : And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Question.

What desirest thou of God in this prayer ?

Answer.

I desire my Lord God our heavenly Father, who is the Giver of all goodness, to send his grace unto me, and to all people, that we may worship him, serve him, and obey him, as we ought to do. And I pray unto God, that he will send us all things that be needful both for our souls and bodies; and that he will be merciful unto us, and forgive us our sins: And that it will please him to save and defend us in all dangers ghostly and bodily; and that he will keep us from all sin and wickedness, and from our ghostly enemy, and from everlasting death. And this I trust he will do of his mercy and goodness, through our Lord Je-

Ius Christ : And therefore I say Amen.

^a James 1. 17. Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights.

^v Hebr. 12. 28. Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

² 2 Phil. 4. 19. My God shall supply all your need.

^a Psal. 57. 1. Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me.

^b 1 Kings 8. 50. Forgive thy people that have sinned against thee.

^c 2 Sam. 22. 4. I will call on the Lord, so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Psal. 91. 9, 10, 11, 12. Because thou hast made the Lord which is my refuge, even the most high, thy habitation, there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling; for he shall give his Angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy wayes, they shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

^d Psal. 121. 7. The Lord shall preserve

thee from all evil ; he shall preserve thy soul.

• *Isaiah* 45. 17. Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation.

Question.

How many Sacraments hath Christ ordained in his Church?

Answer.

Two onely, as generally necessary to salvation : Baptism^e, and the Supper of the Lord^s.

^e *Matth.* 28. 19. Go teach all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

^s *I Cor.* 11. 20. This is not to eat the Lords Supper.

Question.

What meanest thou by this word Sacrament?

Answer.

I mean an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace given unto us, ordained by Christ himself^h, as a means whereby we re-

ceive the same ⁱ, and a pledge to assure us thereof ^k.

^h *1 Cor. 11. 23.* For I have received of the Lord Jesus that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread, 24. and when he had given thanks he brake it, and said, take eat, &c.

ⁱ *John 6. 51.* If any man eat of this bread he shall live for ever.

^k *Matth. 26. 26.* Take eat, this is my body : 27. Drink ye all of it, 28. for this is my blood which is shed for many.

Question.

How many parts be there in a Sacrament ?

Answer.

Two, the outward visible sign, and the inward spiritual grace ^m.

ⁱ *Matth. 26. 26.* Jesus took bread.

^m *Matth. 26. 26.* Take, eat : this is my body.

Question.

What is the outward visible sign, or form in Baptism ?

Ans.

Answer.

Waterⁿ, wherein the person is baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

ⁿ John 3. 23. John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there.

Question.

What is the inward spiritual grace?

Answer.

A death unto sin, and a new birth unto righteousness^o; for, being by nature born in sin^p, and the children of wrath^q, we are hereby made the children of grace^r.

^o Rom. 6. 4. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father: even so we also should walk in newness of life.

^p John 3. 6. That which is born of the flesh is flesh.

^q Ephes. 2. 3. And were by nature children of wrath.

^r I Cor.

• *1 Cor. 6. 11.* Such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Question.

What is required of persons to be baptized?

Answer.

Repentance whereby they forsake Sin^r, and faith whereby they stedfastly believe the promises of God made to them in that Sacrament.

• *Acts 2. 38.* Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins.

• *Mark. 16. 16.* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.

Question.

Why then are Infants baptized, when by reason of their tender age they cannot perform them?

Answer.

Because they promise them both by their Sureties, which promise, when they come to age, themselves are

are bound to perform ".

" *Deut. 29. 10, 11, 12.* Ye stand this day all of you before the Lord your God, all the men of Israel, your little ones, your wives, and thy stranger that is in thy Camp, from the hewer of thy wood to the drawer of thy water, that thou shouldst enter into Covenant with the Lord thy God.

Question.

Why was the Sacrament of the Lords Supper ordained?

Answer.

For the continual remembrance of the Sacrifice of the death of Christ, and of the benefits " which we receive thereby.

" *Luke 22. 19.* This is my body which is given for you : this do in remembrance of me. *1 Cor. 11. 26.* For as often as ye eat this Bread, and drink this Cup, ye do shew the Lords death till he come.

Question.

What is the outward part or sign of the Lords Supper ?

Answer

Answer.

Bread and Wine which the Lord hath commanded to be received.

^{*} *Matth. 26. 26, 27.* He took bread and gave it to the Disciples, and said, Take eat: and he took the Cup and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it.

Question.

What is the inward part or thing signified?

Answer.

The body and blood of Christ, which are verily and indeed taken and received by the faithful in the Lords Supper.

¹ *Matth. 26. 26, 28.* This is my body, this is my blood.

² *John 6. 56.* He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me and I in him.

Question.

What are the benefits whereof we are partakers thereby?

Answer.

The strengthening and refreshing of

our souls by the body and blood
of Christ, as our bodies are by the
bread and wine.

^a *Psal.* 104. 15. Wine maketh glad the
heart of man, and bread strengtheneth
mans heart.

Question.

What is required of them that come
to the Lords Supper?

Answer.

To examine themselves^b whether
they repent them truly of their sins^c,
steadfastly purposing to lead a new
life^d, have a lively faith in Gods mer-
cy through Christ^e, with a thankful
remembrance of his death^f, and be in
charity with all men^g,

^h *1 Cor.* 11. 28. Let a man examine
himself, and so let him eat of that bread,
and drink of that Cup.

ⁱ *Zach.* 12. 10. They shall look upon
him whom they have pierced, and mourn
over him.

^d *1 Cor.* 10. 21. Ye cannot drink the
Cup of the Lord and the Cup of De-
mons: Ye cannot be partakers of the
Lords

Lords Table, and of the Table of Devils.

^e *Hebr. 11. 6.* without faith it is impossible to please God.

^f *Luke 22, 19.* He took bread and gave thanks.

^s *1 Cor. 5. 8.* Let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness.

FINIS.

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